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## Media Release

### **RUH recognised for outstanding support for the armed forces community**

A prestigious accolade has been awarded to the Royal United Hospitals Bath NHS Foundation Trust in recognition of the support shown by the hospital to the armed forces community.

Representing the highest badge of honour, the Ministry of Defence's Employer Recognition Scheme Gold Award identifies businesses that employ and support those who serve, veterans and their families.

To win the award, organisations must show that they provide 10 extra paid days leave for reservists to attend training and have supportive HR policies in place for veterans, reserves, Cadet Force adult volunteers and spouses and partners of those serving in the Armed Forces.

They must also advocate the benefits of supporting those within the armed forces community, by encouraging others to sign the Armed Forces Covenant and engage in the Employer Recognition Scheme.

Cara Charles-Barks, RUH Chief Executive and Honorary Colonel for 243 (Wessex) Field Hospital, part of the Army Reserve Medical Services, said: "I'm delighted that the RUH has received such a prestigious award, which recognises how importantly we take our responsibility towards the armed forces personnel and community.

"We are extremely proud of our staff who serve in the armed forces as reservists and also our veterans and their families and are committed to giving them all the support they need.

“Just last year we were also awarded Veteran Aware accreditation in recognition of our commitment to leading the way in improving NHS care for veterans and members of the armed forces community.

“To receive two such important accolades reflects very positively on the RUH and our commitment to be an outstanding place to work where our staff can flourish.”

Surgeon Commander Richard Graham, RUH Deputy Medical Director, has served with the Royal Naval Reserve since 2005 and has undertaken two tours of duty at Camp Bastion, Afghanistan, as head of the radiology department and consultant radiologist.

He said: “This award is a reflection of our commitment to our reserve forces and cadet volunteers. We value the vital contribution our military staff make to both our Trust and wider defence and have proactive and supportive staff policies in place which ensure they have the opportunity to be able to serve.”

You can find more about the Employer Recognition Scheme [here](#)

## Ends

### Notes to Editor:

The Royal United Hospitals Bath NHS Foundation Trust provides acute treatment and care for a catchment population of around 500,000 people in Bath, and the surrounding towns and villages in North East Somerset and Western Wiltshire. The hospital provides healthcare to the population served by four Clinical Commissioning Groups: Bath & North East Somerset CCG, Wiltshire CCG, Somerset CCG and South Gloucestershire CCG.

The Trust provides 759 beds and a comprehensive range of acute services including medicine and surgery, services for women and children, accident and emergency services, and diagnostic and clinical support services.

In 2015 The Royal United Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust acquired the Royal National Hospital for Rheumatic Diseases (RNHRD) NHS Foundation Trust. The RNHRD treats patients from across the country offering services in rheumatology, chronic pain and chronic fatigue syndrome/ME, cancer related fatigue and fatigue linked to other long term conditions such as multiple sclerosis.

The RUH is changing - we have an exciting programme of redevelopment underway transforming our site and further improving the services we provide. The Trust has opened the purpose-built RNHRD and Brownsword Therapies Centre and is now working towards the new Dyson Cancer Centre. For more details visit: [www.ruh.nhs.uk/about/fit\\_for\\_the\\_future](http://www.ruh.nhs.uk/about/fit_for_the_future)

For more information about the Royal United Hospitals Bath NHS Foundation Trust visit: [www.ruh.nhs.uk](http://www.ruh.nhs.uk)

Chair:  
Alison Ryan

Chief Executive:  
Cara Charles-Barks

